

# State of Mississippi

## Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

# Agriculture Fact Sheet Cotton 2014



- Mississippi's farmers produced 1,000,000 bales in 2014.
  - 824 Mississippi farms grew cotton in 2014.
  - \$404 million value of production in 2014.
  - Mississippi ranks #6 in the United States in cotton production.
  - Cotton is usually planted between April 28 and May 28 and is harvested between September 15 and November 17.
  - No one knows exact origin of cotton. Scientists searching caves in Mexico found bits of cotton bolls and pieces of cotton cloth that proved to be at least 7,000 years old.
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- Cotton keeps the body cool in summer and warm in winter because it is a good conductor of heat.
  - A bale of cotton weighs about 500lbs., the weight of a fully grown grizzly bear.
  - Cotton is produced on about 3,500 farms in the United States.
  - As America moved toward the 20<sup>th</sup> century, cotton played a key role in the creation of many new products. Examples include:
    - Thomas Edison discovered that charred cotton made the ideal filament for the world's first electric light.
    - The Wright Brothers used cotton muslin to cover the wings of their first plane.
    - Cotton provided the magic cord for tires that helped put America on wheels.
  - Cotton has hundreds of uses from blue jeans to shoe strings. Clothing and household items are the largest uses, but industrial products account for many thousands of bales.
  - Cotton is used in:
    - Cotton Cloth.
    - Cellulose (For making plastics, explosives, batting, etc.)
    - Livestock Feed
    - Margarines and salad dressings
    - Enrich the soil.

Source: Mississippi State University, USDA, & America's Farmer

